

REMARKS

The Examiner's action dated April 21, 2004, has been received, and its contents carefully noted.

In response to the new ground of rejection of claims 1-10 as unpatentable over Nap in view of Sahota, claim 1 has been amended to further define the contribution of the present invention over the prior art, in particular by specifying that one of the balloons is a high compliance blocking balloon. It will be noted that this recitation previously appeared in dependent claims 5 and 8.

As is known in the art, a high compliance blocking balloon is constructed to expand so as to block blood flow through an artery without producing an expansion force sufficient to dilate the artery.

Neither of the applied references discloses a catheter provided with such a balloon

The device disclosed by Nap carries a balloon member 4 that is intended to perform a dilatation treatment, while balloon 5 is used to position a stent. Specification, column 2, lines 21-23. Figure 2 of the patent drawing clearly shows that balloon 5, when inflated, will produce a force sufficient to dilate a blood vessel.

Sahota discloses devices having only dilatation or low compliance, balloons.

Since, therefore, neither reference discloses a device having a high compliance blocking balloon, and claim 1 has been amended to include a specific recitation of this

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feature, it is clear, without more being said, that the present prior art rejection cannot stand.

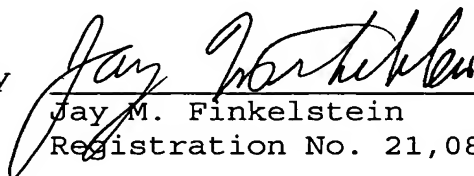
Moreover, the device now defined in claim 1 has a clear functional advantage over the prior art in that it allows the blood vessel to be blocked, in order to prevent debris from entering the circulatory system, without subjecting the blood vessel to an additional dilatation force.

Accordingly, it is submitted that all the pending claims should now be considered allowable over the prior art and it is therefore requested that the prior art rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn, that claims 1-10 be allowed and that the Application be found in allowable condition.

If the above amendment should not now place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to call undersigned counsel to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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